and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran, etc.

7. Efforts for promoting oil palm cultivation and processing.

8. Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

9. Fiscal incentives in the form of excise rebate for use of certain non-conventional oils in the vanaspati so as to encourage increased exploitation of these sources of oils.

Use of defective weights and measures

2093. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is widespread use of defective weights and measures by traders in Todapur, Inderpuri and J.J. Colony (Inderpuri) and village Dasgarah in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take against such traders in those areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Delhi Administration have reported that since August, 1991 they have conducted a number of inspections/raids in Todapur, Inderpuri, J.J. Colony (Inderpuri) and village Dasgarah and four traders were found using defective weights and measures. Legal action has been initiated against these traders..

Import of palm oil

2094. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate amount of import bill paid annually on import of palm oil;

(b) whether there is a great scope for increasing the production of palm oil in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this behalf ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The CIF value of the import of edible oil made during the last three years has been as under:—

Year (Financial)	CIF value (Rs. in crores)
1988-89	765.16
1989-90	203.60
1990-91	349.95

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Areas suitable for palm cultivation in the country have already been identified and possibility for exploring palm cultivation in the identified areas started. A number of schemes to take up oil palm cultivation during VIII Plan period, namely, setting up of nurseries and front-line demonstration and processing in Karnataka, Oil Palm Seed Garden in Andhra Pradesh, expansion of the capacity of the seed germination at CPCRI, Palode, were sanctioned in 1990-91. One project each for production of palm oil has been blished in Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Import of edible oil

2095. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal of importing edible oil;

(b) if so, how much foreign exchange is to be spent for this purpose;

(c) whether it is also a fact that oilseed growers do not want imports and have suggested that the solvent Extract Industry can bridge the gap between demand and supply; and

(d) if so, why Government are not exploiting its potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present import of edible oils is made without outflow of free foreign exchange. However, STC has so far contracted a quantity of 96,000 MTs of nalmolein during the current financial year 1990-91 at the CIF value of Rs. 92.55 crores for import against purchase and surrender of Exim Scrips.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government is already exploiting the potential of solvent extracted oil by harnessing appropriate technology and proper incentive measures.

Irregularity in the distribution of sugar quota by Fair Price Shops

2096. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 95 per cent ration card holders in Delhi have not been distributed their quota of sugar by Fair Price Shops for the month of November, 1991 till the third week of November, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that affected ration card holders are under Circle Office Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29 and 44;

(c) whether Government are aware that the ration card holders had to waste lot of time to get their ration items especially when stock was not supplied to Fair Price Shops;

(d) whether month of November, 1991 was a period of festivals with provision of additional sugar at the rate of 500 gms. per card;

(e) whether stock of ration items should be available with Fair Price Shops before the commencement of drawing period of a particular month;

(f) whether Government propose to strengthen the system of Public Distribution; and

(g) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) There was some delay in delivering levy sugar to fair price shops in November, 1991 and some inconvenience was caused to the card holders on this account in Circles No. 27, 28, 29 & 44. Circle wise number of fair price shops affected were as under:—

Circle No.	No. of FPS affected
27	2
28	11
29	4
44	46

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. Delhi Administration is stregnthening coordination with the Food Corporation of India and the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation to ensure that adequate stocks of Specified Food Articles are made available timely for distribution under the Public Distribution System.

Inclusion of SC/ST and Minorities in Selection Committees/Boards

2097. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instructions issued in August 1990 for inclusion of representatives of SC/ST and minorities in the Selection Committees/Boards have been implemented in his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of such bodies and organisation under his Ministry where the instructions have been implemented;